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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT : JASON BROWN, ET AL.

EXAMINER : J. MURPHY

SERIAL NO : 09/397,550

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FOR : SECRETED SOLUBLE  $\alpha_2\delta$ -2,  $\alpha_2\delta$ -3, OR  $\alpha_2\delta$ -4 CALCIUM CHANNEL  
SUBUNIT POLYPEPTIDES AND SCREENING ASSAYS USING  
SAME

AMENDMENT AND REMARKS

October 5, 2001

RECEIVED

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TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In complete response to the Office Action mailed March 7, 2001, and pursuant to a Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (37 CFR 1.121) dated September 17, 2001, please amend the application identified in caption as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please correct the following typographical errors:

At page 2, second paragraph:

The only assay currently available for the screening of ligands that bind the  $\alpha_2\delta$  subunit involves the use of pig membrane extracts as a source of the  $\alpha_2\delta$  subunit. Such an assay presents major inconvenients. Firstly, because the assay material is a membrane extract, it is very difficult to accurately determine the protein composition from one assay preparation to another particularly with regard to the subtype. Also, the presence of various impurities in the assay preparation is a problem in small plate assays. Furthermore, as the protein preparation lacks homogeneity, the interaction between the

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